

Borough of Louth

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

The Year 1953



**PRINTED BY
T. E. WIGGEN AND SON, LTD.
THE PRINTERIES
LOUTH**

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BOROUGH OF LOUTH

1953—4

Chairman of the Council:

MAYOR

Councillor F. R. Macdonald, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillor J. H. Starsmore.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman:

Alderman J. C. Wherry.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor L. C. Pell.

Alderman T. Freer

Councillor R. M. Cross

Alderman E. W. Macdonald

Councillor F. W. Hutchinson

Councillor J. H. Annall

Councillor A. A. Jane

Councillor W. R. Burr

Councillor W. Patchett

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Alderman J. C. Shelton.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor S. King.

Councillor J. H. Annall

Councillor F. W. Hutchinson

Councillor C. W. Dunham

Councillor C. H. Paul

Councillor B. G. Gibson

Councillor J. H. Starsmore

Councillor P. J. T. Haxby

Councillor G. G. Ness

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Louth.

I have pleasure presenting my annual report for the year 1953 prepared according to statutory requirements.

The year was mainly uneventful in matters pertaining to the health and welfare of our resident population, though its beginning was dramatic, following the calamitous East Coast floods of January 31st, which resulted in the Borough becoming the major receiving and billeting centre for thousands of the unfortunate people from Mablethorpe and Sutton whose homes were affected. The success in dealing with this emergency was in great measure due to the spontaneous help forthcoming from the local people and from the County Council. Similarly on the medical side, the hospitals threw wide open their doors, the local practitioners gave every possible assistance, and the voluntary organisations made their usual appearances on the scene, to render throughout the entire period that valuable help which we have come to take so very much for granted.

During the year, there were 180 live births and 150 deaths of residents. There were four still births and four babies died before attaining the age of one year. Given as rates in terms of population, the actual rates—live birth and death—were respectively 16.1 and 13.6, and when adjusted to make the age and sex structure of the local population comparable with the national, they were 16.3 and 10.9 as compared with 15.5 and 11.4 for the whole country.

The still birth and infant death rates were also better than the national figures, so it was one of those unusual years when all the figures relating to our vital statistics were superior to the corresponding ones for the country as a whole.

Compared with the local rates for the previous year, all except the infant death rate showed improvement.

The causes of death followed the familiar pattern, though accidents and cancer accounted for fewer entries, but a slight increase resulted in deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis. In the main, the deaths resulted from the various causes associated with the final wear and tear, which was also indicated by 75% of the total cases having occurred after the age of 65 years. It is interesting to observe the gradual increase in this percentage during recent years. Perhaps the time will come when an entry in any age group below 65 years will occasion much comment and investigation.

Measles paid its biennial appearance to attack the non-immune victims, but apart from that epidemic there were few cases of infectious disease. Unfortunately, a death resulted from it, which was the only one due to infectious disease.

The prophylactic measures against infectious disease made available by the County Council this year, included treatment against whooping cough, but as this treatment was still on trial, an actual lead could not be given officially towards encouraging its use, even though medical opinion has swung heavily in its favour. It is hoped that this very common infection, with its store of complications, will by the use of suitable preventive measures become as rare as diphtheria now is.

The response to diphtheria prevention was up to the usual excellent standard, and so again Louth parents set the example of safety against this disease by maintaining the high immune level. No need here to remind Borough parents of the danger of over optimism that might result in tragedies such as happened to the non-immunised children in the Midland outbreak of the disease during 1953. We were fortunate, however, in having valuable help from the editors of our local weekly newspapers who, on suitable occasions, brought the importance of immunisation prominently before the public in the editorial topical talks or in the paragraphs of local interest. The Council and all interested in the success of the subject appreciated the help derived from the inclusion of such matter in the popular columns.

In matters pertaining to sanitary circumstances and housing, it would seem that while many projects and problems were earnestly discussed, few new ventures actually materialised during the year. A site for controlled tipping—a hangover from the previous year—was chosen, prepared, and made ready for use in the new year. Progress in water schemes continued, mainly to provide supplies to link up the developments of the Louth R.D.C. The provision of a new open air swimming bath was agreed, but the site chosen had subsequently to be discarded. The discussions, however, focussed attention on the undesirable state of the existing arrangements and the need for their remedy. The satisfactory number of house completions during the year gave effective relief to the waiting list, but the prospects of clearance schemes for the substandard properties still seemed remote.

The routine field work and supervisory control of the expanding services went on with the usual quiet precision thanks to that triad of technical officers, the sanitary inspector, surveyor and housing manager, whom I wish to thank for their assistance during the year and for supplying details of the work in their departments which are used in this report.

I take advantage of this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Chairman and the members of the Public Health Committee for the encouraging help and co-operation which were at all times graciously accorded me.

W. J. KERRIGAN,

Louth: August, 1954.

Medical Officer of Health

BOROUGH OF LOUTH

Public Health Officers :

W. J. KERRIGAN, M B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M , D P H.

Sanitary Inspector
and Milk and Dairies Inspector :

M. DOWSON.

Surveyor :

J. C. BARBER, A.M.Inst.M &CyE.

Meat Inspector :

J. W. BEAUMONT, M.R.C.V.S.

SECTION A

Social Conditions and General Statistics.

Area of Borough in Acres	...	...	2,812
Registrar General's estimated mid year Home Population			11,210
Density per acre	...	...	3.9
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1953	...		3,662
Rateable Value of Inhabited Houses	...	...	£38,872
Estimated product of Penny Rate	...	...	£235

VITAL STATISTICS

(Note—Figures in brackets show corresponding rates for England and Wales).

Births

(a) LIVE	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	170	90	80
Illegitimate	10	6	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	180	96	84
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
(b) STILL			
Legitimate	3	1	2
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4	1	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Actual live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population	16.1	
Standardised birth rate for comparative purposes (Comparability factor 1.01)	16.3	(15.5)
Still birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population	0.36	(0.35)
Still birth rate per 1,000 of live and still births	21.7	(22.4)

Deaths	Total	Male	Female
	153	63	90

Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated population	13.65
Standardised death rate for comparative purposes (Comparability factor .80)	10.9 (11.4)
Deaths from maternal causes	NIL
Deaths from Infectious diseases	1

Deaths of Infants under 12 months old :			
(a) Cases	Male	Female	
Legitimate	4	2	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
(b) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks old :			
	Male	Female	
	1	2	

Causes of infants deaths :	
Multiple Congenital Malformations	1 week
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	4 months
Prematurity	7 hours
Congenital Morbis Cordis	2 days
Leath Rate of infants per 1,000 related live births	22 2 (26.8)

Ages at Death

Ages in Years	0/1	1/5	5/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/55	55/65	65/75	75/85	85+	Total
Deaths	4	3	1	—	3	5	9	14	27	56	31=	153

Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms

Ages in Years	Under 40	40/45	45/50	50/55	55/60	60/65	65/70	70/75	75+	Total
Cases	1	1	1	3	—	1	—	3	12	22

Anatomical sites of malignant neoplasms.

	Male	Female
Lungs	1	—
Stomach	1	—
Colon	—	—
Other Alimentary	—	—
Prostate	—	—
Breast	—	2
Other organs	11	4
Uterus	—	3
	13	9

Causes of Death

	Males	Females
1 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	2
2 Tuberculosis—other ...	—	1
3 Measles ...	—	1
4 Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1
5 Malignant neoplasm—Stomach	1	—
6 Malignant neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	1	—
7 Malignant neoplasm—Breast ...	—	2
8 Malignant neoplasm—Uterus ...	—	3
9 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	11	4
10 Leukaemia—aleukaemia ...	—	—
11 Diabetes ...	—	1
12 Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	18
13 Coronary disease, angina ...	8	2
14 Hypertension with Heart disease	—	—
15 Other Heart disease ...	8	15
16 Other circulatory disease ...	4	4
17 Influenza ...	—	2
18 Pneumonia ...	4	3
19 Bronchitis ...	2	8
20 Other diseases of respiratory system	—	1
21 Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	—	2
22 Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	1	—
23 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
24 Congenital malformations ...	—	2
25 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	15
26 Motor Vehicle accidents ...	1	1
27 All other accidents ...	—	2
28 Suicide ...	1	—
	63	90

SECTION B

General Provisions of Health Services of the Area Laboratory Facilities.

We enjoyed the usual excellent co-operation and assistance from the Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln, whose officers examined all the samples of water, ice cream, milk, and specimens relating to infectious disease investigation, with the exception of samples requiring chemical analysis. The laboratory dealt with a total of 241 samples sent from this Borough during the year.

It is a pleasure to record the valuable help obtained from this convenient and free service which was fully availed of.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Following the general trend, where facilities are available, the diagnostic and treatment clinics have been in recent years centred at the hospital out-patient departments. The extent and the variety of these facilities available locally can be seen from the clinics listed below which are under the direction of visiting consultants. The clinics sponsored by the County Council are mainly concerned with the preventive aspects of medicine and the list of services provided is shown. During the year, the chest and children's eye clinics were transferred from the County Council premises to the Louth County Infirmary Out-patient department.

The following list gives details of the services available.

A—At the County Council's premises, 32, Queen Street, Louth.

School Children.

Weekly Clinic: Wednesdays 2 to 4 p.m.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

- (1) Ante-Natal: Tuesdays (2nd & 4th) 10 to 12 (noon)
- (2) Diphtheria Immunisation: Tuesdays (2 & 4th) 2 p.m.
- (3) Child Welfare: Tuesdays (all) 2 to 4 p.m.
- (4) Toddlers: Mondays (1st and 3rd) 10 a.m.

Rheumatic and heart clinics by appointment, and also are diphtheria immunisation (school children) and ultra violet light sessions.

B—At County Infirmary, Louth. Out Patient Clinics.

At Louth & District Hospital. Out Patient Clinics.

Ophthalmology—Monday 10 a.m.
Ear, Nose and Throat—Monday 2 p.m.
Ante Natal—Monday 2-30 p.m.
Psychiatry—Monday 2-30 p.m.
Dental—Monday 4 p.m.
Surgical—Tuesday 2-30 p.m.
and Friday 2-30 p.m.
Genito Urinary—Wednesday 9-30 a.m.
Chest—Wednesday 9 a.m.
Radiotherapy—Alt. Wednesdays 11 a.m.
Gynaecology—Thursday 11 a.m.
Venereology—Thursday 2 p.m.
Medical—Thursday 2-30 p.m.
Medical—Friday 10 a.m.
Orthopaedic—Wednesday (10 a.m.
and 2-30 p.m. Alternatively)

Monday 2 p.m. and
Thursday 10-30 a.m.

Prevalence of and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis notified during 1953.

Disease	Cases Notified	Case rates per 1,000 of estimated population	
Measles	182	16.24	(12.36)
Scarlet Fever	2	0.18	(1.39)
Whooping Cough	3	0.27	(3.58)
Pneumonia	3	0.27	(0.84)
Acute Poliomyelitis (P)	1	0.09	(0.07)
Acute Poliomyelitis (N.P.)	—	—	(0.04)
Erysipelas	2	0.18	(0.14)
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	+ 5.43	(18.23)
		(+ per 1,000 live and still births)	
Total	194		

Apart from the Measles epidemic which was due for its biennial strike, the other cases notified were not serious in either type or number. The measles cases raged for the first quarter of the year to end abruptly, and unfortunately, a death resulted from a complication of this disease. The single poliomyelitis case occurred at the end of the year, a school child being affected.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination against Smallpox.

I am indebted to Dr. Campbell O.B.E., County Medical Officer of Health for supplying me with the following details of the prophylactic treatment given to local residents.

(a) Diphtheria Immunisation.

Under 5 Years	5-14 years	Booster Doses
145	21	209

(b) Anti Smallpox.

Ages in years	0/1	1/4	5/14	15+	Total
(a) Primary Vaccinations	36	10	5	13	64
(b) Re-vaccinations	—	2	2	11	15

(c) Whooping Cough.

	Under One	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
Under five years	4	4	2	1	—	11

Prophylaxis Measures.

The number of primary treatments against diphtheria was about the same as the previous year, but the booster doses given were increased by 56. The most pleasing part of the return is the year by year consistency shown by the number of treatments given in the baby group, which in this case represented 83% of the number of surviving children born in the previous year. The results indicate the intelligent parental response not only to have protection conferred on the children, but to have the treatment given at the ages recommended.

This was the first year that the County Council provided opportunity to have children under the age of five years immunised against whooping cough, free of charge, either at the clinic centre or by the general practitioner. As can be seen, the numbers who took advantage of the facilities were small, but this was likely due to the absence of authoritative direction from official sources until reliable proof of the efficacy of the treatment can be established. In spite of the fact that no definite claim can yet be justifiably made regarding the reliability of total protection, experience has shown that the severity and duration of an attack of the disease in an immunised child are reduced to insignificant proportions. This factor should encourage the more widespread use of the treatment, especially for babies, who are at greatest risk from the disease and its dangerous complications.

The number of primary vaccinations and re-vaccinations was an improvement on previous years.

Tuberculosis : New Cases and Mortality during 1953.

Age period (years)			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...						
1	...	...				1				1
5	...	...	1		1					
15	...	...	1							
25	...	...		2						
35	...	...				1				
45	...	...	1	1			1	1		
55	...	...		1				1		
65+	...	...						
Totals			3	4	1	2	1	2	—	1

The new cases are similar to last year in pattern and numbers, but the deaths were greater, and in this, the death rate exceeded the national by the ratio 0.36 to 0.2 per 1,000 of population. Those who died from the pulmonary form of the disease were all over 49 years old, which follows the trend that the average age at death from this form of the disease occurs at a much later period than formerly.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances in the Area.

Water Supplies.

Sixty nine samples from the public water supply were examined bacteriologically at weekly intervals and two chemical analyses were done. One of the samples had an unsatisfactory report and six others were classified doubtful, but in each case, the immediate follow up examinations from these sources were excellent.

Two houses with unsatisfactory private supplies were connected to the mains during the year, which left 17 houses in the area not yet on the public supply. These were all along the boundary areas, and comprised three groups of four cottages at Kenwick Road, Stewton Lane, and Riverhead, with five individual houses, of which four were farms. The bore and well supplies of these properties were considered safe, except in the case of two single houses, where it was exceedingly difficult to devise alternative measures unless at a cost which would be unjustifiable in view of the needs.

The surveyor reported progress of the following development schemes during the year.

Horncastle Road Site.

Tenders were accepted for the supply of 3 borehole pumps and 2 booster pumps for delivering the water to the existing storage reservoir, and for the construction of a reservoir of 100,000 gallons capacity, with a temporary pump-house, at the new site to connect via 12" diameter main with the existing reservoir. These works were at the stage of awaiting loan consent and the fixing of the starting date. The Louth R D C. had been supplied with about 25 million gallons of water during the year from the bores on the Horncastle site, and further arrangements were being made to meet that Authority's requirements in another area, when the reservoir in Kenwick Road would be completed. Extensions concerned with the housing needs were part of the working routine.

The question of providing measures for dealing with the softening of the supply and a filtration system to overcome the iron deposit was being actively pursued. As the iron content

appeared subject to rather marked variation, serial sampling required to be done to determine the extent of the trouble on which to base the corrective measures.

Swimming Baths.

The ending of the lease of the privately owned open air swimming baths brought to a head the question of the future provisions which the Council intended to sponsor. The Council realised that the time had come when it was necessary to build a swimming baths fitted with standard hygienic equipment or have a proper filtration and chlorination system installed in the existing baths, if it were decided to continue using them for a long period. After much deliberation, the decision was made to provide a new open air swimming pool in the Westgate fields, and the architects were asked to prepare preliminary plans and costs for approach to be made to the Ministry for approval. The matter was still in abeyance at the end of the year.

Meantime, in order not to deprive residents of the only amenity of its kind in the district, it was agreed to extend the use of the existing facilities for the summer period of 1953. This meant, as previously, using the town public supply for frequent filling and emptying of the baths, with such purification control as could be expected from the addition of liberal doses of chlorine solution by hand. On account of the heavy deposits of iron oxide in the water, which affected its transparency when used by bathers, orders were given to limit the number of bathers at any particular time, but unfortunately there was little observance of this safeguard. Happily, there was every indication of the intention to provide proper facilities before the opening of the baths the following season.

The six samples of water from the baths, taken at weekly intervals after various times of use by bathers, were reported satisfactory by bacteriological examination.

Drainage and Sewage.

Closets.

There still remained the undesirable number of 21 privy vaults and 30 houses with pail closets in the district, though two privy conversions were made during the year. There was no abolition of cesspools.

In the past seven years the number of privies was reduced by 20, the pail closets by 9 and the number of cesspools abolished during this period was 3, which must be regarded as slow progress.

Drains, etc.

The sanitary inspector reported the following work done :—

Drains examined, tested, exposed etc.	...	...	43
Drains unstopped, repaired etc.	...	...	32
Waste pipes repaired	...	...	2
Pail closets repaired	...	...	2

Sewers and surface drains were laid in connection with the further extension of roads on the Eastfield Road Housing Site, and a 9" diameter sewer was laid in Stewton Lane to meet the needs of development in that area.

Sewage Disposal Works.

The surveyor reported that no major alterations or additions were carried out during the year and the works generally functioned satisfactorily. Three samples of the effluent were sent for analysis and reported as satisfactory. Arrangements were being made to provide additional treatment for the surface water before discharge.

House Refuse.

The usual weekly collection was done and 30 complaints were received about delay in emptying bins. These complaints usually followed interference with the routine duties during Christmas, Easter and other holiday periods, after which additional help was seldom obtainable to make up the deficit.

The end of the year witnessed the final dissolution of the Council's incinerator, which had been so skilfully nursed through the infirmities of old age during latter years by the sanitary inspector. It practically died in harness, though the burden of its work was relieved by making part use of a temporary tipping site. Much time was given to the selection of a permanent site for controlled tipping, which the Council was obliged to undertake as the alternative means of refuse disposal. The site chosen was a 10 acre plot in the Council's London Road allotments which was prepared and made ready for work to start at the beginning of 1954.

Disinfection.

Rooms disinfected

(a) Ordinary Infectious Diseases	...	...	5
(b) Tuberculosis	...	...	3
Rooms stripped and cleansed	...	...	Nil
Number of premises disinfested	...	...	1

Nuisances.

Total number of nuisances during year :—

(a)	Abated as result of informal action by		
	Sanitary Inspector ...	...	102
(b)	Reported to Council :		
	(1) Statutory notice issued	...	4
	(2) Statutory notice not issued	...	Nil

Details of nuisances abated :—

	After Informal Intimation	After Statutory Notice
Smoke ...	Nil	Nil
Accumulation of refuse ...	11	Nil
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	3	1
Fowls, Pigs and other animals	4	Nil
Dampness ...	5	Nil
Yards repaved or repaired	Nil	Nil
Other nuisances ...	78	4

Offensive Trades.

(a)	Number of premises in district	...	2
(b)	Number of Inspections	...	8
(c)	Contravention of Bye-laws	...	Nil

Knackers Yards.

Number Licensed	...	...	1
Number of Inspections	...	...	13
Defects remedied	...	...	Nil

Rats and Mice Destruction.

Number of Rodent operatives employed	...	1
Number of premises treated :—		
(a) Dwelling houses	...	6
(b) Other premises	...	134

Shops Act, 1950.

(a)	Number of shops inspected	...	43
(b)	Contraventions remedied	...	Nil

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1. Inspections.

For purposes of provisions as to health including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	21	25	1	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	97	105	1	Nil
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	3	6	Nil	Nil
Totals	121	136	2	Nil

2. Defects found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To HM Inspector	By HM Inspector
1. Want of Cleanliness	1	1	Nil	Nil
2. Sanitary Conveniences : Unsuitable or defective	1	1	Nil	Nil
Totals	2	2	Nil	Nil

3. Outwork.

Nature of work	No. of outworkers from returns submitted	Contraventions
Making wearing apparel	36	Nil
Totals	36	Nil

SECTION D

Housing

Total number of new Houses erected during the year				88
(1)	By the Local Authority	...	...	72
(2)	By other Local Authorities	...	...	Nil
(3)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	16
(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.				
(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	99
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		172
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	45
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	86
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1	
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	58
(2) Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notice :				
		Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	30
(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :				
(a)		Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
	(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil
	(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
	(a)	by Owners	...	Nil
	(b)	by Local Authority in default of Owners	...	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—			
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a)	by Owners	... ..	Nil
(b)	by Local Authority in default of Owners	... ..	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—			
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made		Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses subject to undertakings	... ..	Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 and under Sections 25 and 26			
(1)	Number of Clearance Orders made	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance thereof	... ..	Nil

(4) Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :

(a)	(1)	Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year	... ..	7
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	9
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	51—(58 Individuals)	
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	Nil
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	3
	(2)	Numbers of persons concerned in such cases	... .. 17—(20 Individuals).	
(d)		Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	... ..	Nil

(5) Housing Act, 1949 :

(a)	Number of applications for grants received	4
(b)	Number of grants made	2
(c)	Number of applications for grants made by Local Authority	Nil

(6) Movable dwellings, Tents, Caravans etc. :

(a)	Number of Site Licences	Nil
(b)	Number inspected during year	
	(1) Sites	Nil
	(2) Dwellings	7
(c)	Number of individual licences	7
(d)	Number of contraventions remedied ...	Nil

The total number of new Council house completions for the year comprised the following types of accommodation.

Maisonettes	24	Four bedroom houses	4
Two bedroom Houses	21	One bedroom Flats	2
Three bedroom Houses	20	Two bedroom Flats	1

This pattern followed closely on the demand, as indicated by the analysis of the waiting list which was set out very clearly in the housing manager's report. At the end of the year, there were 166 on the waiting list for post-war houses and 53 for pre-war. Of the former, the number of childless couples, aged couples, and individual persons comprised 54 or 33% of that total, while the family groups represented 45%. The number who indicated they could not afford the rental of post-war houses was 25% of the total on the waiting list. As the clearance of slum property will shortly require to receive attention, the question of making provisions for the type of house or flat accommodation suitable for the elderly couples and single persons, who will be mainly affected by such programme, will of course influence the type of building in the immediate years.

No action under statutory powers, to have housing repairs effected, required to be taken, and no representations were made about the demolition of individual houses or the clearance of slum areas. In the area, Jones Square, Kidgate, which had been defined as a clearance area the previous year, all the nine houses involved were vacated, but no decision had been arrived at regarding the use for which the area could best be utilised.

No new cases of overcrowding were reported during the year and three of the previously existing overcrowded houses were relieved. Only four applications for grants under the Housing Act, were received.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The following is the list of food premises in the area which is an inclusion requested by the Ministry.

Hotels	...	...	6
Restaurants		...	5
Snack Bars	...	...	6
Butchers' and Pork Shops			25*
Fried Fish Shops		...	5*
Wet Fish Shops		...	4
Bakers	...	...	14
Grocers and Confectioners	...		48
Milk Dealers	...	...	35
Dairies	...	...	3
Ice Cream Dealers		...	49*
Jam and Preserve Manufacturers			1*

The asterisks indicate the food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act.

The sanitary inspector reported routine visits to all the premises concerned with the preparation, sale, and service of food, and summarised his remarks thus "Constant contact is maintained with all food traders, and pressure brought to bear on them for improvement, particularly in the display of foodstuffs. Progress is not as rapid as desired, but there is a slow gradual improvement." These visits by the inspector have a value far in advance of any other kind of approach, on account of the opportunity provided for the personal talk, though suitable propaganda was also carried out to help in raising the hygienic standard of food handling. Employing the valuable material provided by the Central Council for Health Education, poster displays were arranged at selected points, which dealt with the various aspects of food contamination and the methods of prevention. This form of propaganda probably had its chief value in making the public alert about irregularities which should not be seen in food premises, because the voice of the customer will often have more telling effect than the efforts of the official. A personal letter from me was also sent to each person in charge of premises concerned with the preparation, sale, and service of food, enclosing the Central Council's informative leaflet "The customer's health is in your hands." The desire for the need of co-operation was pointed out, and request made that the leaflet should be prominently displayed for the information of the assistants employed.

The details of some of the individual matters coming under this heading are shown below.

Meat.

In his report, Mr. Beaumont, V.S. meat inspector of the Council stated he paid thrice daily visits to the two slaughter-houses in the Borough under the Ministry of Food control. His report on the carcase inspections and condemnations is set out thus :—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excl'ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	804	310	521	3601	3044
Number inspected	805	310	529	3615	3104
(a) All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	7	10	18	29	50
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	44	55	1	329	144
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	6.38	20.96	3.57	9.9	6.21
(b) Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	9	16	1	Nil	8
Carcases of which some parts or organ was condemned	42	66	Nil	1	117
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.33	26.45	.18	.027	4.02

Other Food Premises.

Among the improvements in retail shops notified during the year were the following. In grocery establishments, refrigerators were installed in two instances and two others were supplied with hot water and washing facilities. In butcher shops, wall and ceiling repairs were carried out, and new windows and counters fitted ; while a covered show case prevented flies being attracted to food in a wet fish shop. Though the response to providing essential equipment, such as a system for heating water, washing facilities, and covers for exposed food, is improving, there is surprising reluctance about co-operating in some cases, which may demand more forcible measures towards securing better uniformity. It is difficult to expect much improvement until the means of achieving it is provided.

The sanitary inspector reported 82 visits to food preparing premises, 19 to fried fish shops and monthly visits to establishments concerned with catering. Many visits were paid to ice cream premises, apart from those concerned with sample taking, and some 250 other visits were concerned with retail shops and the Food Byelaws. The 16 contraventions found, received attention.

Condemned Food.

The condemned meat and inedible offal from the Ministry of Food slaughter houses were sold and the name of the purchaser communicated to me. Other food condemned, which consisted mainly of grocery stock, was diverted for pig feeding, or immediately destroyed. During the year, no large scale examination of a stock or consignment of food was requested.

The following food was condemned.

Canned meats	314½ lbs.
Fruit, Fish, Soups, Veggies.	562 Tins
Jams, Preserves	119 Tins
Cake mixtures	3 Packets
Milk	61 Tins
Flour	36 lbs.
Biscuits	4 lbs.
Cheese	8 lbs.
Fruit drinks	13 Bottles
Dates	4 lbs.
Frozen prawns	9 lbs.
Fish cakes	12 lbs.
Chocolate marsh-mallows	64

Milk.

During the year, the number of milk producers in the Borough, according to information kindly supplied by the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Lincoln, consisted of 5 T.T. and 6 others. The sanitary inspector's milk and dairy register showed the number of retailers who supplied milk, during part or the whole of the year, to be made up of three firms, delivering pasteurized milk in bottles, and five others, whose rounds included the sale of raw T.T. or non-graded milk, in addition to pasteurized.

Shops, depots and dairies, numbering 26, sold sterilized and pasteurized supplies.

Towards the end of the year, two of the producer-retailers of raw non-designated milk ceased to retail this form of supply.

The results of sample examinations, relating to the hygienic standard of the raw milk and the success of the processing of the pasteurized supply, were as follows :-

Type	Satisfactory	Doubtful	Unsatisfactory
Raw. (Non heat treated)			
(a) T.T. & Accredited	7	—	—
(b) Ungraded	13	—	—
Pasteurized	46	3	—
Totals	66	3	—

Eleven samples, in addition, were sent for biological examination to determine the presence of Tubercle in milk, and all of them proved negative.

The results were very satisfactory and showed a marked improvement on those of the previous year. The three samples, classed as doubtful, decolourised methylene blue before the prescribed time but conformed to the phosphatase test. As however, the storage temperature of the samples exceeded the prescribed limit, the results had to be regarded as unreliable.

Ice Cream.

There was one manufacturer and 49 premises registered for the sale of ice cream, which showed the latter figure to have increased by 15.

This is a product where the hygiene of production and handling can be fairly accurately measured by the results of sample examinations over a period, and these showed that only one out of the eight ex-district firms whose supplies were retailed here, fell below standard. This firm's produce was responsible for the entries under grades 3 and 4 in the results shown below. The reports of all sample examinations were, of course, sent by me to the manufacturers and retailers concerned, and in the case of this offender, a long correspondence ensued with eventual satisfactory results. Our local manufacturer maintained his accustomed excellent record and provided a headline for others to copy.

	Grades			
	1	2	3	4
(1) Produced in Borough	5	—	—	—
(2) Produced ex Borough	54	20	3	1
Totals	59	20	3	1

